

Report: Colombia Chapter Review

10th November 2012 - 10th December 2012

For the review period 10/11/2012 - 10/12/2012 oversight and guidance of the Colombian chapter has been the responsibility of Kari McGregor, GCA representative for the Asia-Pacific region. Please see [GCA meeting notes of 10/11/2012](#) for details. Please find also attached a pdf of these notes with the link to the recording.

Please see [Colombia Chapter Review document](#) (google-doc - view-only for all with the link) from the period 10/11/2012 - 10/12/2012 for details regarding the Colombian chapter's negotiated development plan. This document has been approved by the GCA as the official review criteria for the Colombian chapter during this period without controversy.

In the best interests of all concerned it has been requested that **all non-necessary interactions** between the Colombian chapter and those who have levelled complaints against the chapter be avoided for the period of this review.

1. Introduction

Regarding the development plan for the Colombian chapter I have asked for a high level of development - higher than is officially required of any chapter according to the protocols and chapters guide. It is my conclusion that the Colombian chapter has completed the basic requirements to a high standard, and most additional requests have been met to a satisfactory or high level.

Analysis will be presented here point by point, and it will be demonstrated how conclusions are drawn from this analysis.

2. Colombian Chapter Development Plan:

2.1 Website:

- A new website has been established for www.zeitgeistcolombia.com, and looks professional and appealing to visitors.
- A contact for the chapter has been clearly established. This contact is info@zeitgeistcolombia.com, and is clearly visible in multiple locations on the website.
- A contact form is available on the website. This contact form is fielded by the communications team of the Colombian chapter.

- There is a subscription function via the blog on the website for visitors to the site/supporters to subscribe to receive news and updates, as well as educational materials, from the chapter.
- The website contains the following necessary features:
 - Up-to-date mission statement
 - Up-to-date structure guide
 - Up-to-date FAQ
- Non-necessary (i.e. any that is not specifically educational material regarding the RBEM) TVP-specific content has been removed from website
- The website footer content matches links.
- The global website is clearly linked to on the landing pad of the website.
- Website sections have been filtered to ensure that references to TVP are either removed from content, or it is made clear that TVP is not a focus of TZM (e.g. can refer to TVP/Jacque Fresco as the originator of the RBEM, but not that TZM are working with/for TVP in any way).
- A few materials remain on the website that refer to TVP/Jacque Fresco. These are audiovisual and reading materials with an educational focus regarding the RBEM. There is no more TVP content on this website now than on most other TZM websites, and considerably less than some.
- A blog section has been linked on the site that features dynamic volunteer-generated content relating to chapter activity and education/information.
- A poll has been added that gathers data on how visitors to the site heard about TZM. This is a very useful function that I would recommend other chapters, including TZM Global, to replicate.

It is my conclusion that the Colombian chapter website meets the international TZM standard as expressed in the chapters guide and protocols, and is a good example of an appealing website that is easy to navigate and engage with. In this regard the Colombian chapter has successfully completed the review period, and there is no compelling reason for the chapter website to be dissociated from the global network.

2.2a Communications (Colombia internal):

- The Colombian chapter have been regularly meeting on TeamSpeak and discussing their development plan.
 - I have been present at 3 Colombian chapter meetings in order to discuss the chapter development plan as presented to the chapter (and translated for them). I have fielded many questions in order to assist the chapter with their development and am confident that the chapter have understood the process of the review.
- The communications team takes responsibility for the majority of inter-chapter communication, although the chapter provides both transparency with regard to

this, and opportunities for all interested volunteers to participate in the global network.

- I have recommended, as I would for all chapters and teams, that the Colombian chapter participate in some facilitation training in order to hold effective meetings, workshops, and project/event planning sessions. The chapter, to my knowledge, has not yet had the opportunity to engage in such measures. In this way they are, to my knowledge, no different from any other chapter or team within the Movement, GCA and Global Core included (I have offered this opportunity to the GCA and Global Core as well, and the offer has not been taken up by these exemplary administrative bodies).

2.2b Communications (Latin America):

- Erick and Oscar were requested by some of the GCA representatives to contact other Latin American chapters with clarification of their intention to proceed in cooperation non-violently, and to confirm a commitment to maintaining positive relations. Aside from this the Colombian chapter are not obligated to contact other Latin American chapters during the review period.
 - To my knowledge Oscar has not engaged in this way. It is not possible to hold any single volunteer accountable in this way as he is not an official representative of the Colombian chapter.
 - To my knowledge Erick has continued to communicate with the Latin American chapters, in a non-violent manner, although to my knowledge he has not specifically articulated this intention in writing. Again, it is not possible to hold any individual to account in this way.
 - It is my view that positive and non-violent interactions with the global TZM network in general are evidence of the intention to collaborate with the network. It is arguably not necessary for the Colombian chapter to interact specifically with the Latin American region, with the global network being the important network for communications in this global movement.
 - It is recommended that the Colombian chapter continue to maintain a place within the Global TZM network and collaborate with other chapters and project teams in order to advance the work of the Movement. This interaction should not be restricted to the Latin American region, nor specific to it.
 - Communication with any network, whether global or regional (as per geographic proximity), takes place on the basis that it is supportive and developmental. Any communication not geared toward support or development of chapters is not a requirement that any chapter has to fulfil.

It is my conclusion that the Colombian chapter meets the international TZM standard for communication, and is a valuable part of the global network. In this regard the Colombian

chapter has successfully completed the review period, and there is no compelling reason for the chapter to be dissociated from the global network.

2.3 Projects & Teams

- Teams exist within the Colombian chapter for the purpose of communication as well as a variety of other activities.
- TZM Colombia has volunteers/teams working well to execute successful events such as the Zeitgeist Media Festival.
- The chapter continues to hold regular events and informational sessions such as screenings of the Zeitgeist documentary films, and their “Zeitgeist Cafe”.
- The chapter have agreed to remove the label “Zeitgeist” from all teams not obviously and directly connected with TZM aims and ethos as stated in the mission statement - i.e. if TZM does not take an official position on something we do not place the term “Zeitgeist” in front of it.
- The volunteer-generated educational blog is available via the website, and appears to be regularly updated (the recommendation is to try to update the blog with at least one or two new articles/items per month).
- The chapters/teams are regularly holding meetings on TeamSpeak, and are also holding regular events and education-focused sessions such as screenings of the Zeitgeist documentary films.

It is my conclusion that the Colombian chapter meets the international TZM standard for chapter/team/project activity, in accordance with protocol, as the chapter is very active with a range of events and meetings being held throughout the year. The chapter provides a variety of ways for volunteers to get involved, and has been successful in engaging large numbers of supporters. In this regard the Colombian chapter has successfully completed the review period, and there is no compelling reason for the chapter to be dissociated from the global network.

Drawing from the developments the Colombian chapter have made in all areas stipulated by the development plan, my conclusion and recommendation is that the Colombian chapter remain networked with the TZM global network, and continue its developments alongside all other global chapters.

I wish the Colombian chapter the best of luck with its future developments and hope to see some positive developments in conveying the message of the Movement to ever more people.

3. Further Information :

For further information regarding background to the case of the Colombian chapter and the 1 month review period please see the points below:

3.1 GCA history with Colombian chapter

To view the case of the Colombian chapter as reported via the GCA Trello board please [click here](#). As is clear, there is not a great deal of information present in the time leading up to the GCA meeting of 10/11/2012, and no reports have been attached, no meetings requested, and no clear position taken.

3.2 Colombia Chapter Review from Latin American GCA representative

In early November 2012 I was passed a document by an anonymous volunteer with the Latin American chapters entitled “Colombia Chapter Review”, dated July 2012, and written by Nelson Alvarez, Latin American Chapters coordinator. This report was never presented to the GCA, but forms the basis of the rationale presented to the Latin American chapters for the dissociation of the Colombian chapter from the global network. Please find a pdf of this report attached.

3.3 Vote against the Colombian chapter

I was present at the November 5th Latin American chapters meeting at which a “vote” was held to determine the future of the Colombian chapter within the TZM global network. I observed the harassment of the Colombian chapter and subsequent vote, in which 15 volunteers participated - 9 of them from the Argentinian chapter. The result of the vote was that the Latin American chapters voted to disconnect the Colombian chapter from the TZM global network. This vote went against the decision-making protocol, chapter protocol, and coordination protocol. Please find a pdf of the meeting notes attached.

3.4 Closure of a Zeitgeist Movement Chapter: Colombia – A Case Study

In response to these breaches of protocol I conducted a report entitled *Closure of a Zeitgeist Movement Chapter: Colombia – A Case Study*, detailing what had happened and analysing the case of the Colombian chapter in terms of accordance with the established protocols and in comparison with other chapters. Please find attached a pdf of this report. It is my recommendation that all chapter activities be brought into accordance with protocols.

3.5 Colombia Chapter Review by impartial GCA representative

On 10th November 2012 a meeting was held with the GCA (pdf of minutes attached - with link to recording) in which it was agreed that the Colombian chapter would be granted a 1 month review period which I, as an impartial representative (i.e. not involved in the Colombian chapter, any other Latin American chapters, or with any complaints against the chapter) of the GCA would oversee. The [Colombia Chapter Review document](#) was drafted, by me, in order to outline a development plan that addressed the issues raised in Nelson Alvarez's Colombia Chapter Review of July 2012. The criteria in this review document have been accepted/not objected to by the GCA and the Colombian chapter.

3.6 Harassment of GCA representative conducting review

Following my request that no non-essential communication take place between the Colombian chapter and any volunteers with a history of communication problems with the chapter I immediately (within 5 minutes of posting the link on the GCA Trello board - before even making the document available to the Colombian chapter) received a request from an external party (i.e. external from both the Colombian chapter and the GCA - therefore someone who could only have the link to the document if it were passed on by a representative of the GCA) with a history of communication problems with the Colombian chapter to share the Colombia Chapter Review document. Details (anonymised) of this interaction are pasted verbatim as follows:

On 12/11/2012 9:47 PM, *[name removed for anonymity by Kari McGregor]* (Google Drive) wrote:

Solicitud para compartir

Documento [Colombia Chapter Review - Development Plan](#)

Eres el propietario de este elemento y *[email removed by Kari McGregor for the sake of anonymity]* te solicita que lo compartas con:

+ *[email removed by Kari McGregor for the sake of anonymity]*

Añade a estas personas en Configuración de uso compartido.

My response was as follows:

Hi there,

With respect, as you have asked for me to share a private document, may I ask who you are? This document is intended for sharing with the GCA and Colombian chapter and has not yet been issued outside the GCA because it is not yet complete.

Thank you in advance of your clarification,

Kari McGregor

Further response from the individual responsible for the request was as follows:

Durante ya más de un año que he intentado dialogar con activistas del capítulo colombiano, y no único que he recibido son ataques personales y las típicas falacias de trolls.

No he sido el único en intentar solucionar el problema con Colombia, sino que también casi todos los coordinadores de Latinoamérica.

Por lo cual pido acceso al documento para mantener no solo transparencia de la información también realizar apoyo en las s gestiones que se realicen para desarrollar una nueva estructura del capítulo colombiano.

Saludos

[name removed for anonymity by Kari McGregor]

Further response from myself

[name removed for anonymity by Kari McGregor],

In response to your request I will repeat what I have said to the GCA, and what I will relay at the next Latin American chapters meeting at which I will present an explanation from the GCA regarding the Colombian chapter review. Please note:

Please can those with a history of communication problems with the Colombian chapter refrain from all non-necessary contact with the chapter during the review period - it is necessary to provide the breathing space required for improvements to be made with humility.

This request was made when I provided the link to this document to the GCA. I have not publicized the link outside the GCA other than to provide it to the Colombian chapter as it is important that we be allowed to proceed with our work without interference. If you have been provided this document link by a GCA representative I would like to know what you were told about it and what your role is in relation to it. It is not obligatory for other Latin American chapters to have contact with the Colombian chapter during this period, and it is preferable for those who have a history of poor communication to avoid all unnecessary contact that may cause interference.

I would like to respectfully request that you contact me personally if you have any questions regarding the development of the Colombian chapter, and please refrain from making comments on the review document.

Thank you in advance of your understanding and cooperation,

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Kari McGregor

The Zeitgeist Movement, Global Chapters Administration for Asia-Pacific region

In response to this request I was greeted with a tirade of personal criticism - directed at myself - written as commentary on the Colombia Development Plan google-document, precisely as I had requested not be done.

In addition, I have experienced criticism and ridicule from within the GCA and Global Core Team for taking on the task, as agreed by the GCA, of reviewing the Colombian chapter during this period. I find this behaviour to be a disgrace to the Movement, and entirely inappropriate. I hope to see more exemplary behaviour in future - behaviour befitting a movement that calls for a paradigm shift.

4. Conclusion & recommendations

It is the conclusion of this review that the GCA has acted contrary to protocol up until the point of the November-December 2012 review, with regard to the Colombian chapter.

This review has found satisfactory development of the Colombian chapter, aligning the chapter with all official protocols and guides. It is therefore the conclusion of this review that the Colombian chapter should remain an officially recognized chapter of the TZM global network.

It is the recommendation of this review that the GCA review and modify their processes and procedures in order to avoid unnecessary upheaval, and in order to maintain optimal fluidity of communications both between chapters and the GCA, and within the entire global network of chapters.